

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
REQUEST FOR FILING APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b)  
**WITHOUT FILING FEE AND/OR WITHOUT EXECUTED INVENTOR'S DECLARATION**

**Mail Stop Patent Application**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
Sir

Atty. Dkt. 10-1473

Date: April 14, 2004

19270 U.S. PTO  
10/823763  
041404

This is a request for filing a new PATENT APPLICATION under Rule 53(b) entitled:

**TOP SEPARATOR FOR GAS PHASE AND HYDRAULIC PHASE CONTINUOUS DIGESTERS AND METHOD FOR CONVERTING DIGESTER**

without a filing fee and/or without an executed inventor's oath/declaration.

This application is made by the below identified inventor(s). Attached hereto are the following papers:

- ☐ Newly executed Declaration, ☐ Copy of Declaration from prior application, ☒ Abstract  
☐ Please **delete** the following inventors in the continuation/division/continuation-in-part application:

**Deleted persons:**

- 23 pages of specification and claims (including 18 numbered claims), and  
4 sheets of accompanying drawing/s for Figures 1 - 4.

☐ Attached is a Power of Attorney.

☐ Priority is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119 based on the following foreign applications:

Application Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed
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, respectively, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application..

- ☐ Certified copy(ies) of foreign application(s) is/are attached.  
☐ Certified copy(ies) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ in prior application no. \_\_\_\_\_ filed \_\_\_\_\_  
☒ This application claims the benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/469,400, filed May 12, 2003, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application.  
☐ This application is a ☐ continuation/☐ division/☐ continuation-in-part of Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application:  
☐ Petition filed in prior application to extend its life to insure co-pendency.  
☐ The prior application is assigned to \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ It is hereby requested that the Examiner consider the art cited in the above parent application(s) by applicant and/or the Examiner for the reasons stated therein. A listing of that art is attached, but pursuant to Rule 98(d) copies are not required.  
☐ Applicant claims "small entity" status. ☐ "Small entity" statement attached.  
☐ Please enter the attached preliminary amendment **prior** to calculation of filing fee:  
  
☐ Also attached: ☐ Information Disclosure Statement; ☐ Non-Publication Request; ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission; ☐ Statement deleting Inventor(s) named in prior application; ☐ Other:

- |    |                   |                                      |    |        |               |
|----|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----|--------|---------------|
| 1. | Inventor:         | Keith                                | P. | Vogel  | USA           |
|    |                   | (first)                              | MI | (last) | (citizenship) |
|    | Residence: (city) | Queensbury (state/country) New York  |    |        |               |
|    | Mailing Address:  | 3 Timmons Lane, Queensbury, New York |    |        |               |
|    | (Zip Code)        | 12804                                |    |        |               |
| 2. | Inventor:         | John                                 | F. | Bolles | USA           |
|    |                   | (first)                              | MI | (last) | (citizenship) |
|    | Residence: (city) | Queensbury (state/country) New York  |    |        |               |
|    | Mailing Address:  | 24 Maple Drive, Queensbury, New York |    |        |               |
|    | (Zip Code)        | 12804                                |    |        |               |

☒ **See attached sheet(s) for additional inventor(s) information!!**

Address all future communications to NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C., 1100 North Glebe Road, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Arlington, VA 22201.  
Correspondence Address:

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By Atty: Jeffry H. Nelson, Reg. No. 30,481

**Customer Number:**

**23117**

Telephone: (703) 816-4000

Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

JHN:glf

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jeffry H. Nelson*

3. Inventor: Patrick J. Sullivan USA  
(first) MI (last) (citizenship)  
Residence: (city) Argyle (state/country) New York  
Mailing Address: 182 County Route 44, Argyle, New York  
(Zip Code) 12809
4. Inventor: C. Bertil Stromberg USA  
(first) MI (last) (citizenship)  
Residence: (city) Bolton Landing (state/country) New York  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1724, Bolton Landing, New York  
(Zip Code) 12814